

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CPR-01 SAJ-01 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6338

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1789

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG

REFS: A) PEKING 1775, B) PEKING 1778 C) PEKING 1779

D) PEKING 1780 E) PEKING 1781 (ALL NOTAROAV

1. SITUATION IN PEKING AT 1400 HOURS LOCAL SEPTEMBER 10.

2. ALL RADIO STATIONS HAVE CONTINUED TO BROADCAST THE DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT, THE FUNERAL COMMITTEE NAME LIST, THE FUNERAL OBSERVANCES

SCENARIO, A FUNERAL DIRGE, AND THE INTERNATIONALE. THE ONLY NEW SUBJECT

MATTER INTRODUCED WAS A BRIEF NOTE ON THE LAYOUT OF TODAY'S PEOPLE'S DAILY, WHICH PRINTS A FULL-PAGE PHOTO OF MAO UNDER THE BLACK RIMMED HEADLINE "ETERNAL GLORY TO OUR GREAT LEADER AND TEACHER CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG." (ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE SEEN THE FBIS REPORT ON THE
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LAYOUT.)

3. IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE BLACK ARMBANDS ON PERHAPS 90 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT FROM CASUAL OBSERVATION OF THE STREET SCENE THAT ANYTHING OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE HAD OCCURRED. FAR FEWER PEKING RESIDENTS HAVE STARTED WEARING THE WHITE ROSETTES OR MAO-BUTTONS. PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF EMOTION ARE RARE. POST-EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL DAY (INCLUDING COMPLETION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE FIRST

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAO'S DEATH, OF A NEW BILLBOARD SLOGAN ON CHANG AN STREET WISHING "A LONG LONG LIFE TO OUR GREAT LEADER CHAIRMAN MAO") CONTINUE APACE ALONGSIDE ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FUNERAL. NO MOVE HAS BEEN MADE YET TO POST MEMORIAL PICTURES OF MAO IN THE OUTDOOR DISPLAY CASES, EITHER TOGETHER WITH OR APART FROM THE STILL-POSTED CHOU EN-LAI PHOTOS.

4. SHOPS SELLING FUNERAL DECORATIONS AND PORTRAITS OF MAO REMAINED OPEN THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. THE PEKING STREETS BY 0330 HOURS SEPTEMBER 10 SEEMED NORMAL, THOUGH NIGHTTIME SECURITY MAY HAVE BEEN TIGHTENED ONE DEGREE. SEVERAL SMALL PATROLS OF CLUB-WIELDING MILITIA WERE VISIBLE, AND THE SENTRY FORCES AROUND CHUNGKING HILL HAD BEEN INCREASED BY SEVERAL GROUPS OF FOUR MEN EACH. FOUR PLA SENTRIES WITH SIDEARMS GUARDED THE MARTYR'S MONUMENT AS USUAL, BUT MADE NO EFFORT TO PREVENT VIEWERS FROM MOUNTING TO THE TOP TERRACE. NOR DID THE SENTRY MAKE ANY EFFORT TO REMOVE THE DOZEN OR SO BOUQUETS, OR TO DISTURB THE MOURNING ROSETTES ENTWINED LIKE A LEI IN THE GUARD CHAINS SURROUNDING THE OBELISK.

5. BETWEEN 0630 AND 0700 SEPTEMBER 10, THE FIRST WREATH WAS PLACED ON THE MARTYR'S MONUMENT, THE VISIBLE PORTION OF ITS INSCRIPTION READING "ETERNAL GLORY TO CHAIRMAN MAO." ENTWINED IN THE GUARD CHAINS ALONG WITH THE ROSETTES WAS A SHEET OF EXERCISE-BOOK PAPER CALLING UPON THE CHINESE PEOPLE TO CARRY OUT THE REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION, DEMANDING THAT THE ANTI-RIGHTIST CAMPAIGN BE WAGED TO THE END, AND HAILING THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. TWO OTHER PAPERS WERE BEING PREPARED AT THE TIME.

6. BY 1245 SEPTEMBER 10 THE WREATHS AND FLOWERS ON THE MONUMENTS REMAINED, BUT THE SHEETS OF PAPER HAD BEEN REMOVED. LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE CONTINUED TO CLIMB TO THE TERRACE UNMOLESTED BY PLA

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GUARDS.

7. IN TIAN AN MEN SQUARE THERE SEEMED TO BE A DISCERNIBLE INCREASE IN SECURITY BY NOON. ON THE ROOF OF THE GREAT HALL THERE WERE OBSERVERS; FIVE PLA SOLDIERS WITH SIDEARMS WERE STATIONED ON THE MARTYR'S MONUMENT TERRACE; A PAIR OF UNIFORMED OBSERVERS STOOD BY THE ENTRANCE TO THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM TO THE EAST OF TIAN AN MEN SQUARE; ABOUT A DOZEN SENTRIES WERE VISIBLE IN FRONT OF THE GREAT HALL;

AND A HALF-DOZEN TROOPS LOUNGED IN FRONT OF THE SHIHTANG (THE BUILDING BURNT OUT DURING THE APRIL RIOTS).

8. COMMENT: WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT AUTHORITIES HAVE PERMITTED APPARENTLY SPONTANEOUS EXPRESSIONS OF GRIEF AND POLITICAL SENTIMENT AROUND THE MONUMENT - THIS AREA WAS CORDONED OFF THROUGHOUT THE MOURNING PERIOD FOR CHU TEH -- BUT WE PRESUME THAT AFTER REVIEWING THE CHING MING AFFAIR AND WEIGHING THE RISKS OF OVERT OBSTRUCTION THEY DECIDED TO ADOPT A LOW PROFILE WHERE POSSIBLE.
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